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words, but I hoped that I had guarded against misconception, for I have not only discussed these words pretty fully on pp. 76-85, but have expressly stated that

"To pronounce such (that is, weak) words always in their emphatic forms would be very strong and unnatural, and quite contrary to the genius of our language. In fact no Englishman could do it."

P. 78; see also p. 106. But as children and beginners in phonetics find it extremely difficult to analyse whole sentences and to write down correctly the weak forms of variable words (pp. 107 f.) I aimed at a style of writing which they could adopt without attempting this analysis, by simply spelling one word at a time.

In French such a method of spelling would be practicable, and Mr. Paul Passy is responsible for the French specimens. In like manner, Prof. Vietor is answerable for the German, where he has introduced the glottal stops less regularly in the more colloquial passages.

That long 'æ' is often heard in English I cannot deny. Long wide 'o,' as in *dog*, is also not infrequent, but I think that both are inelegant and ought to be avoided.

Prof. Grandgent concludes that because I pronounce *fairest* like *aorist*, there is a strong glide before the 'r' in both cases. On the contrary, there is no appreciable glide in either. See pp. 59, 60. And in the same way I pronounce simple 'ɔ' and not 'ɔə' before 'r' followed by a vowel, as in *story*. *Transition* I pronounce not with 'z,' but with 's.'

LAURA SOAMES.

Brighton, England.

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LONG. NOTES.

SIRS:—I would remind Miss Soames that I objected, not to any "alleged stiffness" in her own pronunciation, nor even to the "more than stiff" English of her texts, but to the discrepancy between her English and French systems of notation. I cannot see why the argument she adduces for English does not apply with equal force to the other language. However, I do not think it worth while to discuss at greater length what seems to me to be, at the worst, a slight blemish in an excellent book.

C. H. GRANDGENT.

Cambridge, Mass.

ROMANCE LANGUAGES.

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES.

SIRS:—Rather extensive personal observation and the examination of a large number of catalogues for the studies pursued at different colleges, have led the writer to conclude that the study of the Romance languages and especially literatures, is much neglected if not lightly esteemed in many institutions. An investigation of the facts which should clearly set forth the condition (amount, character, etc., so far as possible) of the study of these idioms and the wider circulation of the same, would be interesting and instructive, and could not fail to do much toward correcting the want of appreciation in which these studies are held in certain parts of our country. It does not seem improbable that the chief cause of the wide-spread neglect of these subjects, is the result of ignorance of their real value as a means of discipline, and of the extent, wealth and charm of their literatures.

Students are often less to blame for their neglect of these subjects than are persons, who have the shaping of their courses of study before they reach the time when these idioms are taken up. A carefully prepared lecture by the professor of Romance languages, or some equally qualified person, giving general notions of the wealth of the Romance tongues and of the importance of the Latin races, might contribute to arouse an interest in students whose attention had not before been called to these studies. As one of the most reliable and helpful aids to a presentation of the subject in outline, will be found a series of books on 'Zeiten, Völker und Menschen,' von Karl Hillebrand (Strassburg, Verlag von Trübner). 'Frankreich und die Franzosen' is now before me, and has been found to be a mine of information and suggestion.

EUGENE W. MANNING.

De Pauw University.

BRIEF MENTION.

Part iv, Section i (*sār—swiðrian*) of the Bosworth-Toller 'Anglo-Saxon Dictionary' (Clarendon Press), just published, will disappoint students of Anglo-Saxon who have long

been looking for the completion of this work. Professor Toller had not prepared his public for a division of Part iv, and his silence on the point begets the unpleasant apprehension that the tattered parts, now extending over ten years, are not soon to be patched and glued into the desired whole. The low speed at which Professor Toller is proceeding in this work would be less annoying if the reason for it were more obvious. In the new pages the editor maintains his previous level of workmanship. The articles on the dem. *sē*, the verb *sculan*, the particle *swā*, and the pron. *self* are very full and of special value for syntax, while editorial skill is specially prominent in the classification of meanings under *scēawian*, *scēotan*, *sēcan*, *secgan*, *sellan*, *settan*, *slēan*, *standan*. Under *seolh*, *sulh* and *sūlung* the editor disregards the compensative lengthening of vowels (Sievers, §218). The peculiar use of *selfice* occurring 'Past.' 25, 7 is omitted, but excellent discrimination is shown in admitting the new theme *scofettan*.

An interesting and suggestive 12mo pamphlet of sixty pages has reached us, bearing the title "Modern Languages and Classics in America and Europe since 1880. Ten years' Progress of the New Learning." By A. F. Chamberlain, M.A., Fellow in Clark University, Worcester, Mass. The countries for which a general view of modern language work is here given, include the United States, Great Britain, France, Italy, Hungary, Germany, Norway and Sweden. For these the author marks the drift of sentiment expressed by scholars during the last decade on the relation of classical and modern language training. Liberal extracts are given from original documents, showing a wide range of reading and a bibliographical survey that must be of interest to the teacher, while the chronological order in which much of the material is presented will enable him to follow the trend of ideas as they have developed and been grouped about this, probably the most important, reform movement in the history of pedagogy of the nineteenth century. It is gratifying to note that the writer's heart is in the right place; the conclusion of his monograph brings us an expression of the following unbiased sentiment:

"These essays, in which an endeavour is made to indicate the present state of the world's thought on the question of the comparative merits of the ancient and the modern languages, are penned in no spirit of opposition to Greek."

PERSONAL.

Dr. Ewald Flügel, Privatdocent at the University of Leipzig, has been elected Professor of English Philology at the Leland Stanford Jr. University. Dr. Flügel is already well known to American Students of English as one of the editors of *Anglia* and of the *Beiblatt zur Anglia*, to which he has contributed many articles. He is also the author of a critical edition of Sir Philip Sidney's 'Astrophel and Stella,' and 'Defense of Poesie' (Halle, 1889).

Mr. C. H. Grandgent, Director of Modern Languages in the Boston High and Latin Schools, has in press (Ginn & Co., N. Y.) a small work on 'German and English Sounds.'

Professor H. C. O. Huss (Princeton College) has in press annotated selections from Hugo's 'Les Misérables,' which are intended for advanced students in French. This editor is also preparing a collection of French idioms adapted to the use of lower grade students.

Frederic Spencer, M.A., Professor of Modern Languages in the University College of North Wales, has been appointed Examiner in the Mediæval and Modern Languages Tripos of Cambridge (England) University.

Prof. W. T. Hewett (Cornell University) is engaged on a volume of essays entitled 'University Life in the Middle Ages, and other Essays,' which will contain papers on the History of the University of Leiden; the House of Orange; University Administration; and the poets Goethe, Schiller and Lessing.

Professor Hugo Schuchardt (University of Graz, Austria) is engaged on a special work dealing with Negro English. In order to treat this subject as fully as possible, the author would esteem it a favor, if writers of newspaper articles (or other casual contributions to local journals) bearing on the material, would forward to him directly copies of said articles, or indicate the same through the columns of MOD. LANG. NOTES.